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UNIVERSITY OF KERALA

DEPARTMENT OF
ORIENTAL RESEARCH INSTITUTE & MANUSCRIPTS LIBRARY

UNIVERSITY OF KERALA

कर्मणि व्यज्यते प्रज्ञा

കേരള സർവകലാശാല
തിരുവനന്തപുരം

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About University of Kerala

One of the first 16 Universities in India, the University of Kerala was founded as the University of Travancore in the erstwhile princely state of Travancore (now southern part of Kerala and some neighboring parts of the state of Tamil Nadu) in 1937. During the 7 decades since, the University of Kerala grew and shrunk physically and transformed itself in many ways. The earliest origins of the University may be traced back to two institutions of modern learning in Kerala, the University College, Thiruvananthapuram and the Trivandrum Observatory. The University College was initially founded as the Maharaja's Free School by Maharaja Swathi Thirunal in 1836, with Mr John Roberts, a Christian missionary as Headmaster, and soon grew into a college in 1866, affiliated to the Madras University. When the University of Travancore was founded, the Departments of the college became the University Departments. The Trivandrum Observatory was founded in 1838 and had an internationally reputed scientist, John Caldecott FRS as its first Director. It is now the oldest institution under the Kerala University.

At present, the University has sixteen faculties (subject groups) and forty two departments of teaching and research in addition to study centres and other departments. Teaching, research and knowledge extension are the mandates of the Departments. They primarily focus on post-graduate (masters) programmes, MPhil programmes (1-year research degree) and doctoral research. The University has a total student population of about 65,000 in various institutions. University's research activities are also going on in selected affiliated colleges and other recognized research centres in and outside the state. In 2013, the University awarded 200 PhDs. The total number of full-time students in the University Departments is above 2000 including a modest number of foreign students. The Institute of Distance Education offers a number of bachelors and masters programmes which cater to more than 7000 students all over the country and abroad. The number of students in the affiliated colleges number over 50,000 spread out in more than 200 colleges. The University has also established 10 University Colleges of Teacher Education (UTEC) and 8 University Institute of Technologies (UIT) both of which offer bachelors programmes (B. Ed in UTECs and BSc Computer Science/IT, Electronics/BBA in UITs). The University College of Engineering at Kariavattom offers engineering education at bachelors' level. These institutions together have a student strength of more than 5000. The University has been publishing

University of Kerala, Palayam Campus Building

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since 1946 the Journal of Indian History, a prominent publication in the area. The Manuscript Library of the University is a treasure trove of Indian culture. The library has over 65,000 works in 30,000 copies mainly of palm leaf manuscripts, in addition to paper manuscripts, copper plates, birch bark and textiles. The manuscript collection also includes those belonging to Burma, Malaysia, Indonesia, Nepal etc. The University of Kerala is well known for empowering its students. The University Union, Departments Union, Research Students Union are all forums that are established through democratic process and positions in these forums are fiercely competed. Elected student representatives have membership in supreme bodies of the University such as Senate, Academic Council and also Syndicate, the executive committee of the University. The University has a state of the art stadium in the centre of the city, with synthetic track. Students of the University have many achievements at the state and national level in sports and games. The University also has a 'National Service Scheme' with a corp. of students trained in service to the society. The Adult Education Department of the University has received UNESCO-NLM award in 2005. The University Library established in 1942 has over 3,00,000 books and gives access to over 9000 on-line journals. The University has published an English translation of the classic Dutch work, "Hortus Malabaricus" a 20-volume treatise on plant wealth of Kerala, in 2003.

Message

I do acknowledge with humility the Almighty who bestowed me with the great privilege of scrawling down these verses sitting in the chair formerly occupied by such great and scholarly personalities like Dr.T. Ganapathi Sasthri, Sri. K. Sambasiva Sasthri, Mahakavi Ulloor S Parameswara Iyer, Dr.L.A. Ravi Varma, Dr.P.K. Narayana Pillai, Dr.Sooranadu Kunjan Pillai and Dr.K.Raghavan Pillai. I do bow down my head with gratitude to His Highness Sree Moolam Thirunal Maharaja of Felix memory and the Royal Dynasty of Travancore, whose vision and action led to the establishment of this prestigious treasure in 1908 and to the happy memory of the former Curators and Directors who have dedicatedly spent their time and energy to bring this institute a renowned treasury of knowledge and a centre of academic excellence.

It is with proud and responsibility that we take care of the treasure trove of manuscripts in which lies dormant the glorious literary and cultural past of Kerala. I am also glad that as a pioneering centre in the field of research activities on palm leaves and their publications and that many Indian and Foreign Scholars visit this department as part of their scholarly works, attracting worldwide attention.

It is a privilege for me as HoD of this Department to extend all wishes to this great endeavour.

Warm Regards,

Dr. K.G. Sreelekha
Professor and Head

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About the Department

Unveiling the Glorious History of 106 Years

Oriental Research Institute and Manuscripts Library is an academic department of the university of Kerala. It has a history of about a century, and now done substantial work in the field of Indological studies. It has come in to existence out of royal interest. The kings of Travancore, as a rule, were valorous as well as lovers of art and literature. Sri Moolam Tirunal was mainly responsible for the spread of Oriental literature throughout the world. It was he who instituted the department for the publication of Oriental manuscripts which in due course grew into the present institution.

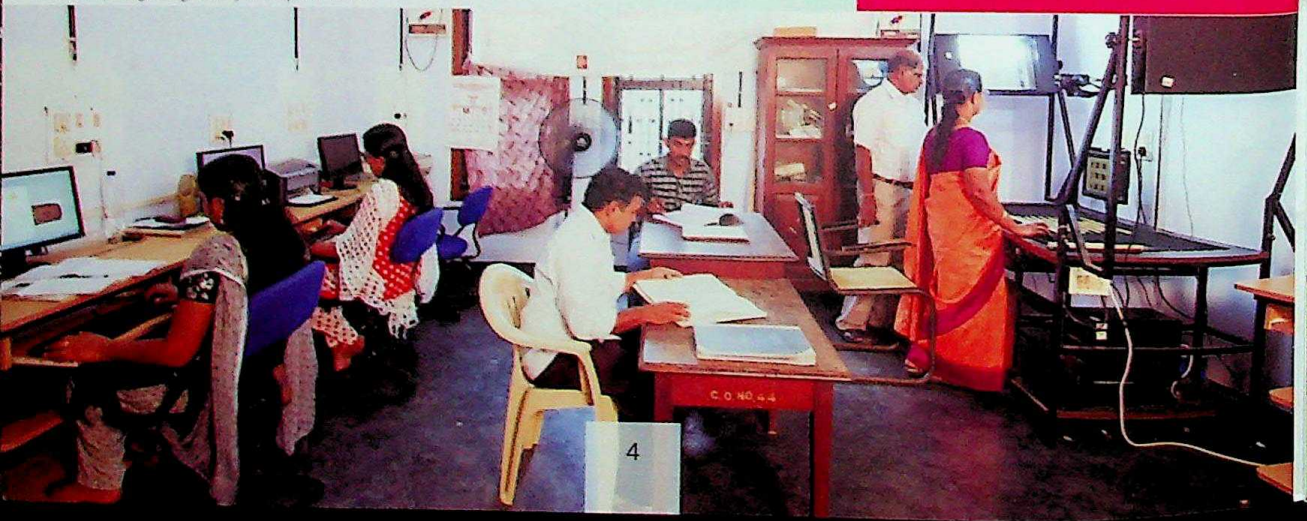
Situated at the beautiful scenario of Kariavattom Campus, the Department is symbolically the converging point of Eastern and Western architecture. The building became a reality, due to the timely efforts of former Central Minister, Dr.S.Karan Singh. His dreams came true in 1982, when the department was officially inaugurated at Kariavattom.

The Beginning

In 1903, His Highness Sri Moolam Thirunal appointed Dr. T. Ganapathy Sastri, then Principal of Sanskrit College, and a Scribe to publish the manuscripts under the royal collection. Next year the first of the Trivandrum series, "Daivam" with Purushakara commentary was published. Though "Bhaktimanjari", the book of hymns composed by His Highness Swati Thirunal, eulogizing the tutelary deity, Lord Padmanabha, was printed first, the King wanted the book to be combined along with, "Syanandurapuravarnana prabandha", a realistic portrayal of the capital city of Thiruvananthapuram.

In the year 1908, the department came into Independent existence with Dr. T. Ganapathi Sastri as the Head at Lakshmi Vilasam Bungalow, with an aim to publish not only the royal collections, but also with the view of bringing into light those in the private libraries of ancient families. Its noteworthy

Manuscript Digitizing Facility of Dept. of ORIM



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Faculty of the Dept. of ORIM

here that Mahamahopadhyaya Dr.T.Ganapathy Sastri, was awarded the degree of Doctor of Philosophy by Tubingen University, Germany for his edition of Bhasa plays for the first time.

The University Manuscripts Library ' was started under the Travancore University in 1938. Then the department was renamed as Oriental Research Institute & Manuscripts Library and was converted into a research centre for Indological Studies in 1966. The building was shifted into the present premises in the year 1982.

This Department owes much to the blue blooded royal line of Travancore rulers who had always taken attention to treasure the legacy of their ancient literary output, cultural heritage and had cared to pass on the scientific outlook to the successive generations too.

Admin staff of the Dept. of ORIM

Faculty

- Dr. K.G. Sreelekha
  Professor and Head, MA (UoK), BEd. (UoK), PhD. (UoK), Post Graduate Diploma in Epigraphy (Sri Visakham Thirunal School of Epigraphy, T'puram)
- Dr. O. Padmakumari
  Assistant Professor, MA Tamil Language & Literature (UoK), MPhil (UoK), PhD. (UoK)
- Dr. M. Sainaba
  Assistant Professor, MA (UoK), BEd. (UoK), MPhil. (UoK), PhD. (UoK)
- Dr. Rejani R.S.
  Assistant Professor, MA (UoK), BEd. (UoK), MPhil. (UoK), PhD. (UoK)

Retired (Last 5 Years)

- Dr. N. Sam
  Professor
- Smt. R. Girija
  Associate Professor

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Activitites of the Department

The major functions of the department are:

- Collection of manuscripts
- Care and preservation of manuscripts
- Editing and publishing the manuscripts

Academic Activities

- MA Manuscriptology (Elective Courses)
- MPhil. Manuscriptology, PhD. in Malayalam, Tamil and Sanskrit

Other Activities

- Awareness programmes for conserving the old palm leaf manuscripts.
- Manuscripts survey in Kerala and Tamil Nadu.
- Exhibitions, lectures, seminars and workshops both in the department and off campus venues.
- Teaching ancient scripts like Vattezhuthu, Kolezhuthu, Malayanma, Tamil and old Malayalam to the public.
- Training programmes to the Govt. Departments and Educational Institutions.
- Cataloguing the manuscripts in private repositories.

I have studied an elective paper entitled 'MSS 501: Brahmi Script from ORI &ML as part of MA curriculum. In later stage, when I was pursuing my researches in Western India, the basic knowledge of Brahmi script helped me to understand the intricacies in a number of inscriptions. Being one of the most useful papers for an archaeologist we still encourage our MA students to opt it as an elective.

Dr. Rajesh S.V.
MA Elective (2001 - 03)
Assistant Professor, Department of Archaeology, UoK

Portico of Dept. of ORIM

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Inside view of the Manuscripts Library

MA Manuscriptology (Elective Courses)

Semester 2

MSS.501	Brahmi Script (2 credits)
MSS.502	Grantha Script (2 credits)
MSS.503	Origin & History of Writing (2 credits)
MSS.504	Tamil in Manuscripts (2 credits)
MSS.505	Preservation of Palm-leaf and Paper Manuscripts (2 credits).

Semester 3

MSS.506	Conservation of Archival Materials (2 credits)
MSS.507	Principles of Textual Criticism (2 credits)
MSS.508	Vattezhuthu Script (2 credits)
MSS.509	Nandinagari Script (2 credits)
MSS.510	Writing Materials (2 credits)

I have studied an elective paper entitled 'MSS 501: Brahmi Script from ORI &ML as part of MA curriculum. While studying I hadn't realized the importance of the paper in true sense and its implications in Archaeology. But in course of time, while working with ASI, I was able to handle many of the Mauryan inscriptions; the basic knowledge acquired as a student helped me to provide new dimensions to the existing information.

Mr. Abhayan G.S.
MA Elective (2004 - 05)
Assistant Professor, Department of Archaeology, UoK

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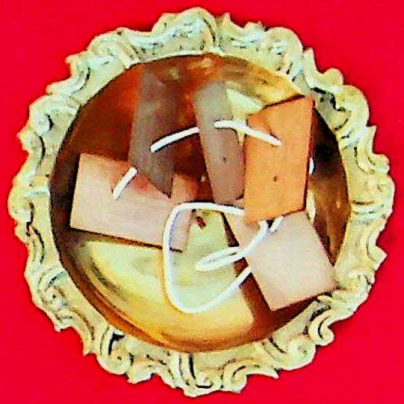
MPhil. Manuscriptology (Malayalam, Tamil & Sanskrit)

The objective of this course is to mould young students by inculcating a new academic culture in them for pursuing Research studies in Statistics. M. Phil is a two semester programme with an intake of 8 students. M. Phil being considered as pre-doctoral program. New syllabus for this course has been designed which further provide freedom for students, to choose one paper out of three papers they have to study in the area in which he/she intend to concentrate for research. The new syllabus has been implemented from 2009 admission onwards.

Duration	:	1 year
Eligibility	:	M.A. - Malayalam, Tamil & Sanskrit – 50% marks
Fees	:	Rs. 3,220/-



Semester 1

Paper I	Research Methodology
Paper II	Principles of Textual Criticism

Semester 2

Paper III	Writing and Writing Materials
	Dissertation
	Viva-voce

MPhil. Scholars and Researchers of the Dept. of ORIM

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Research

Major research functions of the department are three fold. Collection and Preservation of manuscripts (during the last seven years 463 manuscripts were collected)

- Publications and sales : The publications of manuscripts commenced under Trivandrum Sanskrit Series and 465 major works were published. Two periodicals published annually named as Journal of Manuscripts Studies and Pracheena Kairali.
- Teaching and research : We offer M.Phil Manuscriptology and Ph.D programmes . We entertain research scholars and indologists from different quarters of India and Abroad.

Areas of Research

- Manuscriptology
- Palaeography
- Principles of Textual Criticism
- Teaching Ancient Scripts
- Critical Edition of Manuscripts

We are proud to entertain scholars and indologists from different parts of India and outside including the academic and literary circles.

Recent Publications

- Sangitakritis; H.H. Swathithirunal;
  ISBN 819245786-9
- Bhojanakuthuhalam
  ISBN 819245786-0
- Jyotsnika
  ISBN 819245786-7
- Padyaretnam
  ISBN 819245786-5
- Viswakarmeeyam
  ISBN 819245786-2

Recent PhDs Awarded

- Dr. Sajina G.
  "Bhagavatam Irupathinalu Vritham - Samsodhitha Samskaranavum Padanavum" (2012)
- Dr. Maya K.S.
  "Panchatantram Kilippattu - Samsodhitha Samskaranavum Padanavum" (2013)
- Dr. Thanooja G.
  "Malayala Novelukalile Realism" (2013)

Researchers inside the Manuscript Library

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I was a research scholar of Manuscriptology in the Oriental Research Institute and Manuscripts library of University of Kerala from 1997 to 2000. One of the premier research institutes of the country, this department helped me to have a glimpse on the various ancient knowledge traditions of India. There are hundreds of unknown literary, scientific and philosophical works in this institute. I am proud that the library is the only institute in the University with the greatest tradition. I gained basic knowledge of manuscript editing there, and met many efficient scholars. With the inspiration gained from presenting papers there, I presented papers on subjects like manuscriptology and imdological study in many countries like Thailand, Srilanka, Nepal, Portugal and Spain and informed about University of Kerala. Studies there helped me to write two books and about ten papers during the research time, with the help and inspiration of scholars. I could also secure a job in higher education sector. Research at Manuscript library helped me to learn the ancient knowledge tradition and acquire a good and practical research methodology.

Dr. V. Rajeev
Associate Professor, Dept. of Malayalam, Catholicate College, Pathanamthitta

Preservation room of the Dept. of ORIM

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Alumni

Alumni 'Thaliyola' started on 30/08/2008 with 23 members. It organizes Seminars, Lectures and Training Programmes every year. A survey of 'Palm leaf manuscripts in Kerala' is also conducted during 2010. Alumni members are giving awareness classes to the public for care and preservation of Manuscripts. Very effective support and participation is getting from the Alumni members in all the departmental activities.

Some Prominent Alumni

- Dr. K.G. Sreelekha
- Smt. Girija R.
- Dr. N. Sam
- Dr. O. Padmakumari
- Dr. M. Sainaba
- Dr. Rejani R.S.
- Smt. Radha
- Dr. V. Rajiv
- Dr. Lalu S. Kurup
- Dr. Hena Lal S.
- Dr. Lekshmi V,S
- Sri. P. Krishnakumar
- Dr. Sabitha K.
- Dr. Soosi Joseph
- Dr. Maya K.S.
- Dr. Maya B.
- Dr. Saramma Varghese
- Shri. Shaji P.L.
- Dr. Jayanthi S.
- Dr. Amala
- Dr. Aji kumar
- Smt. Shiji A.K.
- Dr. Philip John
- Sri. Gopakumar A.
- Smt. Radhamony
- Smt. Bhavana Joseph
- Smt. Sherin R.
- Smt. Rejitha P.R.
- Dr. Geetha
- Smt. Rajalekshmi M.T.
- Dr. Madhu
- Smt. Jisha S.K.
- Shri. Vinod S.
- Smt. Sree Remya D.S.
- Smt. Remya S.
- Dr. Sajina G.
- Smt. Sunitha Babu.
- Smt. Sreeja S.
- Dr. Neelima Jayadevan
- Dr. Chandrabose R.
- Sri. R. Harichandran
- Dr. Deepamol Mathew
- Dr. C. Lekha
- Dr. K.V. Sanal Kumar
- Shri. Rajadurai
- Smt. Viji P.
- Smt. S. Baby
- Smt. Sonu L. Johnson
- Dr. Sudarsana Babu
- Dr. R.S. Jaya
- Smt. Parvathy K.G.
- Dr.vijayamohanan Pillai
- Dr. Rajesh S.V.
- Shri. Abhayan G.S.
- Smt. Reena V.S.

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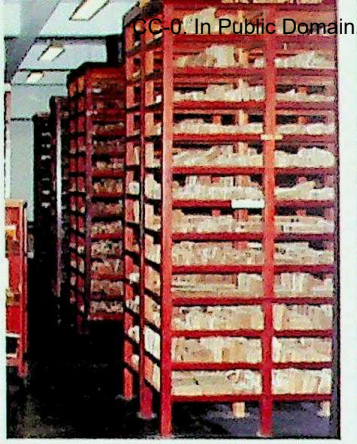

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ASSISTANCE: ANISH VARGHESE, SUHAIB SALIM, ANAND V.B. | SUPPORT: ARUN S.S., SREEJITH K.C., SUNU SATHYANATHAN, VINOD H., VINOD KUMAR S.

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